**Polymerisation reactions (Level 1) examiners tips: Read these please!**

• practise, practise these - particularly polypropene

• polythene aka polyethene is used in plastic bags  
• polypropene aka polypro's is used for thermal clothing and ropes

• include a bracket and little n for your polymer diagrams ( )n

• conditions required for polymerisation are heat, pressure and a catalyst

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **type of plastic** | **everyday uses** | **related to chemical or physical properties** |
| polyethene  *(polythene)* | glad wrap  carrier bags  lunch boxes  plastic bottles | lightweight  low chemical reactivity  insoluble in water  during manufacture it can be moulded into many different shapes |
| polypropene *(polypropylene)* | milk crates  thermal clothing  ropes used in water  garden chairs | lightweight, strong  low chemical reactivity, insulator  lightweight & unreactive with water (but degrades in sunlight/UV)  does not react with air/water/decomposer organisms, recyclable |

**Also…”don’t be daft”**

practise POLYPROPENE, ensure you can draw it correctly

be sure to link the everyday use to a property of the polymer

don’t bother learning/drawing/naming extras this year, stick with what is required, polyethene /polythene and polypropene /polypropylene only!

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